

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce E. Mann et al.

Art Unit : 2131

Continuation of:

Examiner : Christopher Revak

Serial No. : 09/260,262

Filed : March 1, 1999

Title : SLOW RESPONSE IN REDUNDANT ARRAYS OF INEXPENSIVE DISKS

Commissioner for Patents

Post Office Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claim 1-16.

Add claim 17.

17. A redundant array of inexpensive disks comprising:

a plurality of disks;

a bus coupled to said disks and adapted to transmit data blocks from said disks to a receiving device; and

a reconstructor to reconstruct a data block of one of said disks with associated data and parity blocks from others of the disks and in response to determining that the one of the disks has not responded within a normal time interval for responding to a read request; wherein the reconstructor comprises:

a processor to send a signal to the reconstructor in response to the one of the disks not responding within the normal time interval and with the reconstructor transmitting the reconstructed block to the receiving device in response to receiving the signal.

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18. The redundant array of claim 17 wherein the processor is adapted to request the other of the disks to send associated data and parity blocks to the reconstructor in response to the one of the disks responding slowly.

19. A method of transmitting data from a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID configuration), comprising:

requesting a first disk of the RAID configuration to transmit a first data block stored therein to a receiving device;

reconstructing the first data block from associated data stored in other disks of the RAID configuration with the reconstructing being performed in response to the first disk, but not completing a transmission of the first data block within a predetermined time.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the associated data comprises at least one data block and a parity block from other disks in the RAID configuration.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the reconstructing is performed in response to determining that the first disk is slowly responding.

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REMARKS

Please examine the above application, which was filed to claim additional aspects of the invention.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 16/20/2001

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